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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
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Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
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Quarterly Milk Production

Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2003

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2003 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the fifth year of the data series. Data for 1998-2002 are currently being reviewed and will be available soon on our website or by contacting our office. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2003 totaled 233,000 cwt. The south central district produced the most at 92,200 cwt, followed by the Southeast district with 61,400 cwt and the Northeast district produced 58,500 cwt. **Pinto bean** production during 2003 was 209,000 cwt. for the state. Carbon county had the highest pinto bean production with 46,300 cwt. The second and third leading counties were Dawson and Prairie with 38,000 cwt. and 34,300 cwt. produced, respectively. The South Central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans followed by the Southeast district. As for **garbanzo beans**, county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The Northeast district produced the most garbanzo beans at 17,200 cwt., followed by the North Central district with 4,800 cwt.

Sheridan was the number one **lentil** producing county again in 2003, with 106,000 cwt. harvested. The number

two county was Roosevelt with total production of 69,500 cwt., and third was Daniels county with 22,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast district produced 83 percent of the state's lentils. **Dry edible pea** estimates indicate that Sheridan county was the largest producer in 2003 with 91,000 cwt. grown, followed by Valley county at 82,300 cwt., and Roosevelt county at 80,600 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 74 percent of the state's dry peas. Liberty was the leading county in **Austrian winter pea** production during 2003 with 11,000 cwt. and Richland county was second with 6,600 cwt. produced.

Daniels was by far the largest **canola** producing county in 2003 with 6.0 million pounds, or 24 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was Sheridan with 4.2 million pounds produced, followed by Valley county with 3.3 million pounds. The Northeast district produced 66 percent of the crop. Richland was the number one **safflower** producing county with 9.7 million pounds. The next leading county was Roosevelt at 4.8 million pounds, followed by Dawson's production of 4.4 million pounds. Seventy-nine percent of the state's safflower was produced in the Northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in **flaxseed** production for 2003 at 84,000 bushels. The next largest county was Valley with 78,000 bushels, followed by Roosevelt County at 12,000 bushels. Ninety-two percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the Northeast district. Montana's total **sunflower** production was 915,000 pounds in 2003. The South Central district accounted for 110,000 pounds. Data for the other districts was combined to avoid disclosing individual information. The leading **mustard seed**-producing counties were Sheridan with 4.4 million pounds and Valley with 2.3 million pounds. Ninety-two percent of Montana's mustard seed was produced

in the Northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2003. Thanks to those who participated!

Montana and U.S. Potato Stocks Up from Last Year

Montana potato producers held 2.1 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2004, up 11 percent from the previous year. Sixty-three percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 59 percent in 2002.

The 15 major potato States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 278 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. (Continued on inside page)

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2003	2	6.4
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2003	30	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding government payments:					
Total	1,687,481	thousand dollars	2002	34	0.9
Crops	701,983	thousand dollars	2002	32	0.8
Livestock	985,498	thousand dollars	2002	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	10	2.5
All Cows	1,490,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	8	3.6
Beef Cows	1,472,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	7	4.5
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	22	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	300,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	6	4.9
Hogs and Pigs	170,000	head	Dec. 1, 2003	25	0.3
All Chickens	485,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2003	38	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,540,000	head	2003	8	4.1
Lamb Crop	280,000	head	2003	4	6.8
Pig Crop	338,000	head	2003	28	0.3
Wool Production	2,597,000	pounds	2003	5	6.8
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2003	38	0.1
Honey Production	9,570,000	pounds	2003	6	5.3
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	137,530,000	bushels	2003	5	5.9
Winter Wheat	63,640,000	bushels	2003	8	3.7
Durum Wheat	14,490,000	bushels	2003	2	15.0
Other Spring Wheat	59,400,000	bushels	2003	3	11.1
Barley	31,590,000	bushels	2003	3	11.4
Oats	1,980,000	bushels	2003	16	1.4
All Hay	4,635,000	tons	2003	13	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,360,000	tons	2003	9	4.4
Dry Beans, All	233,000	cwt	2003	12	1.0
Pinto Beans	209,000	cwt	2003	8	2.0
Garbanzo Beans, All	22,000	cwt	2003	6	5.1
Lentils	273,000	cwt	2003	4	11.2
Dry Edible Peas	450,000	cwt	2003	4	8.7
Austrian Winter Peas	56,000	cwt	2003	2	32.2
Potatoes--fall	3,339,000	cwt	2003	17	0.8
Sugar Beets	861,000	tons	2003	7	2.8
Flaxseed	221,000	bushels	2003	2	2.1
Corn for Grain	2,380,000	bushels	2003	40	1/
Corn for Silage	1,128,000	tons	2003	23	1.1
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

Montana and U.S. Potato Stocks Up from Last Year

(Continued from front page)

Processors used 137 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. March usage of 16.9 million cwt is 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 30.3 million cwt to date, down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 86.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 5 percent from last year, Washington decreased 7 percent, Colorado's storages held 29 percent less, and California lost 6 percent. Potato sheds in both Oregon and Montana stored 11 percent more than last year at this time.

Central States accounted for 31.8 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 22 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks increased 42 percent from last year's level, Minnesota's storages held 25 percent more, Wisconsin went up 3 percent, and Michigan gained 7 percent. Nebraska and Ohio combined are up 25 percent.

Eastern States stored 7.75 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 12 percent from last year and 31 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 3 percent, New York's gained 241 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 25 percent.

March 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2004, up 3 percent from March 2003 and 9 percent above February 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,153 pounds, decreased 16 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 237

pounds, was up 8 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up from 200 head in March 2003. The average live weight rose one pound to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2004 commercial red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer

calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2004, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during March 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 318 million, was up slightly from a year ago.

March U.S. Milk Production Down 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a

decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

January-March Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 42.7 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 head less than the same period last year.

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